

NSC BRIEFING

3 July 1957

BACKGROUND: EGYPTIAN ELECTIONS

- I. In Egypt, the Nasr regime is holding its first parliamentary elections today (3 July).
 - A. Nearly 1,200 candidates out of 2,500 who applied are being permitted to run for 350 seats in Egypt's new National Assembly.
 1. However, 71 candidates, including most of the important figures from the regime's standpoint, are running unopposed, thanks largely to official pressure.
 2. Regime found no suitable candidates for 5 seats, which will not be filled.
 3. Nasr and his henchmen have not hesitated to make free and arbitrary use of their power to ensure a result overwhelmingly in their favor; they have even casually violated the electoral law they themselves drew up earlier.
 4. US Embassy Cairo notes that each former member of the Revolutionary Command Council has an average of 6 relatives running for election. Nasr himself is running several aides and private secretaries in addition to his relatives.
 5. As a result, there is little popular interest in the elections, although there have been a few violent encounters between supporters of opposing regime-blessed candidates.

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